THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Heavy haul operation is one of the methods of increasing the capacity of the railways to move more freight traffic on a route. Indian Railways has experimented with running of heavy haul freight trains in some areas, including Kiriburu-Bokaro line. The introduction of heavy haul is an area of continuing reseach and certain technological and infrastructural problems are yet to be overcome before the system can be implemented.

[Translation]

Out of Turn Telephone Connections

1994. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government accommodations (P&T) STD-ISD connections/telephone connections were allotted on compassionate ground between January 1, 1993 and June 30, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether such allotments made between July 1, 1996 and November 10, 1996;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any criteria/guidelines has been fixed for such allotment;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether these are strictly followed; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)

Department of Post & Telecom.

GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATIONS:

POST & TELECOM : The information is being collected and the same would be laid on the Table of the House.

Department of Telecommunications

STD-ISD CONNECTIONS/TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS.

Generally telephone connection on out of turn priority basis are sanctioned on various grounds including compassionate ground. However, no separate record is maintained for telephone connctions sanctioned on compassionate grounds.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at Part(a).

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The details are given below:-

(i) Applicants suffering from prolonged and serious illness like cancer, serious Kidney diseases, dirrhoia of liver.

(ii) Widows, genuinely placed in highly adverse social condition.

(iii) Genuine victims of natural calamities and man-made catastrophies who do not have telephone facilities. This should include cases of terrorist threats only.

(iv) Senior Citizes of India (70 years and above).

(v) Public servants performing arduous nature of duties but not provided with telephone at residence by their employers.

(vi) Statutory, Government aided and Government recognised Educational Institutions and Accredited Journalists.

(vii) Physically Handicapped persons with more than 60% disability.

(viii) Any special or extraordinary case deserving compassionate consideration (including recognised Social Workers).

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[English]

Demand of AC-I Quota

1995. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is demand for AC-I quota for Asansol;

(b) if so, the detaills thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present there is no quota of AC-I at Asansol;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to allot at least three to four AC-I quota for Asansol for each train;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (g). There is a demand for allotment of AC First Class quota at Asansol station in trains passing through this station Computerised reservation facilities have already been provided at Asansol station linked with the computerised passenger reservation system at Calcutta and passengers can seek as many reservations as required on first-come-first served basis.